

The return of Canadian nationals from Japan and the problems arising from the steady flow of European refugees who, having reached Japan, wished to obtain permission to enter Canada, added greatly to the activities of the passport and visa division of the Legation.

During the year, in addition to the usual routine matters, correspondence was exchanged with, or representations were made to, the Foreign Office in regard among other things, to the damage to Canadian Mission properties in China; the abrogation by Japan of the Pelagic Sealing Convention of 1911; and the difficulties encountered by Canadian business organizations operating in the Japanese Empire.

The normal routine work of the Legation connected with the application of the Immigration Agreement with Japan also continued on a reduced scale throughout the year.

On the 29th of May Mr. E. H. Norman joined the staff of the Legation as Language Officer, having been transferred from the Department of External Affairs. In June Mr. M. T. Stewart, Assistant Commercial Secretary, was transferred to his former post in Shanghai to remain there during the absence, on leave, of the Trade Commissioner ordinarily stationed at that post.

Canadian Legations, Brussels and The Hague

The organization of the Canadian Legations in Belgium and the Netherlands was completed just prior to the outbreak of war. Negotiations for a trade agreement with Belgium had to be indefinitely postponed. The development of the relations of Belgium and the Netherlands with their belligerent neighbours was closely followed, and in the early stages of the war, reports were sent covering the efforts of the two countries to remain outside the conflict and to adjust themselves to the economic blockade. The military and financial measures taken by the Governments of the Low Countries to face the impending invasion were reviewed, as well as the reaction of the local press to the hostilities in Finland and Norway.

Before the German invasion actually took place, the Canadian Minister had taken the necessary steps for the evacuation of Canadian nationals in Belgium and the Netherlands. The Legations at Brussels and The Hague, as well as the trade and immigration offices at Brussels, Antwerp, The Hague and Rotterdam were closed and their protection was entrusted to the United States Government. There were no casualties among the Canadian civilians, although the Trade Attaché's offices at Rotterdam were destroyed in the course of an enemy air raid. The Canadian Minister followed the Belgian Government to Poitiers and later to Bordeaux, and London.

In London, official contact was resumed with both the Belgian and the Netherlands Governments; a full account was submitted of the establishment of these Governments in England and of their plans with regard to continuing the war. Facilities were granted to them for the enlistment and training of their nationals in Canada.

While in the United Kingdom the Canadian Minister supplemented his interim accounts on the various phases of the evacuation by a general report on the development of the war from May 10th up to October 31st. In this report, full particulars were given of the circumstances which accompanied